2/24/73

Dear Art,

We could not be more on the same frequency if the same crystal vibrated for both of us! One of my great concerns is that one or more of the kooks lacthed onto Trumbo. Some, like Garrison, are remarkably persuasive. There are few who can really evaluate the stuff they believe themselves and thereby become more persuasive in repeating. From my youth, Trumbo has been a great to me, and it would be more tragic for such a man with such a record! to come to his end in an irresponsibility.

There are many other possibilities, all alike. Several complete fakes are going around as real non-fiction. One, originating in France, has some steam behind it and not a little accurate spying on those who question it. Another is the product of a former LA(county) dick. Which reminds me: do you know much about him Hugh McDonald?

Thereare so many, and of these many, so very many in your area. There is one whose relationship with you I don t know, but you have to know him. He is what the Germans used to call a luftmensch, and from my experience hish him he is a crook and a fake. For example, he claimed a news background. But he undertook to edit and alter a simple release I once wrote (natch, without asking me) and no newsman would have written as he did.

The letter I wrote Trumbo is a very personal one. I begin by referring to my effort to help the Hollywood Ten fight their way free, of my lending one of them all the research for a book I had already researched on Dies and his committee, and of my not ever hearing again or getting any of all that work back. It cost me what could have been a very good book. Can you imagine a Trumbo ordinarily not sending even an acknowledgement? It seems out of character to me. Which makes me think that one of these farout ignorant self-impirtant dedicated nuts may have latched onto him.

You say you do know him. Then when you can please try to see him. Warn him that most of the people talking about the political assassinations are as wrong as they are dedicated, that a few or not dedicated but have dubious backgrounds, and that some are literally off their rockers. If he wants a rundown on his associates, he can have it, free, for the last thing I want is more shit coming out in any form or medium. And, of course, I don t want anyobe like Trumbo soiling himself. There have been so many needless tragedies like this!

I agree with you also on the preference for a fictional approach, But that also holds the same disasterous potential if it is nutty.

Art, my work has progressed far, far past what almost anyone can expect, and if I have no (responsible) idea who did the job, there is now almost nothing I don t know about the details of the result and of the official dishonesties. Much more than we could have expected four years or so ago. I doubt that anyone could or would have put as much effort in and have used it with as little waste. I have much that was withheld from the Commission, there is nobody of any consequence to whom I wanted to talk who hasn't, so I can evaluate most if not all the nutty theories.

Meanwhile, if he is going to do a script, he might as well do a responsible one. He can use real stuff in a fictional form, and what a bash that would be! I have in im my possession. To the point where I can tell you I have what I would not use or permit to be used, color pictures of the President's blood. Is that close enough to the nitty-gritty?

I811 accept an amendment to your correction on my saying that being right is a crime: among most of those we know, being right is the worst crime for it means they are wrong and their ehos can't tolerate that. On your saying it is loneliness, agreed.

Thanks and best. Let's hope some of those "good things in the works" come to fruition soon.